

THE EVENING STAR.

WASH. D.C., December 18, 1917.

CROSBY S. NOYES, Editor.

Average morning Daily Circulation over 17,000 being more than three times that of any other daily newspaper in Washington and more than that of all the others added together.

To Correspondents. Letters should be addressed to the Editor or Business Manager of THE EVENING STAR, and not to any individual name. Otherwise they will not be published.

To Advertisers. Advertisements are requested to send in their announcements as early in the day as possible, and in all cases before 12 o'clock. The insertion in the paper is not to be made until the day after that of the advertisement.

Industrial Education.

The extent to which a state shall educate its citizens is a subject discussed in all parts of the civilized world, and its decision involves important national consequences. The result of the world's deliberations is to have the crystallization of one opinion, at least, generally conceded to be sound, viz: It is just that a state should carry public education beyond the amount which necessity requires in its citizens for the perpetuation of its existence, then no limit can be fixed to the extent to which a state may justly attempt, by education, to make its citizens wiser, better, and happier; if more than the rudiments be taught, the national university follows logically, though circumstances may make the full development of the course inexpedient. Now the one great objection to public instruction in the higher branches of knowledge is that it is the study for a few but not for the masses, and makes him dissatisfied in any field labor outside of the so-called learned professions. The vast majority of young men, whose lives are destined to be spent in the noble work of developing the nation's material resources, thus come from their course of mental training unskilled and prejudiced in respect to their life-work. Industrial education aims to obviate this objection by preparing young men for mechanical industries just as they are now prepared for law, medicine and theology. It teaches the art which is applied to practice in all specific industries, and serves as a foundation for their successful pursuit. It develops the powers of that wonderful instrument, the human hand, along with those of the mind, and raises him from manual labor above the exertion of mere brute force. In the professions which require a trained hand, skill has been obtained in the past by the apprenticeship system, in which the pupil, commencing far from the elements, learns only by bungling. By the proposed plan the analytical method of instruction is to be applied, and those manipulations of the hand and the use of those tools are to be taught, which in a general way run through all mechanical pursuits. Industrial education is not merely theoretical, but is practically exemplified in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, whose president in a recent lecture in this city exhibited some remarkable specimens of his pupils' skill; and this Institute is itself an imitation of the Imperial Technical School at Moscow, Russia. The introduction of the manual element in public instruction can hardly fail to be beneficial results. The objection that all men cannot be mechanics is as strong as the similar one to a liberal education, that all men are not scholars. The professions have no use every particle of knowledge that he possesses; it is the power to draw from this stock whatever the emergency requires that alone is valuable. Industrial education will increase the capacities of the hand while bringing it more completely under the control of the mind; it will aid in developing the practical, carrying out the designs of the mind, by sending forth for this purpose a body of trained youth, enthusiastic in their work; it will prepare the large majority of young men for their life labors; and as for the remainder, without detriment to their peculiar studies, it will give them a new power to meet and solve the problems of life and to overcome its difficulties, by placing under their control the hand, an organ for the mind, and its manifold uses, and to hang uselessly by the side, or to be employed mainly in the office of carrying food to the mouth.

The "Paulist Fathoms" in New York have taken a needed stand in endeavoring to suppress the extravagance and folly of costly funerals. In general, and especially among people who, with justice to the living, are unable to stand the expense of these displays. One of their preachers contrasts the pomp observed in the last rites in honor of an obscure person with the simple burial of Christ Himself, and demands the practical of the simple and the garments which vie in extravagance and fashion with those of the theatre and ball room. And he justly says that "to make a dead body an object about which to display earthly vanity and pride is to defile that which is holy and outrage that which is decent."

Jefferson's style is so simple, easy, and natural, so utterly devoid of strut or rant, that to the mind of some who cannot see the art that conceals art, he "does not act at all." In the most impassioned scene in his "Rip," that where he is driven from home by his stern-hearted wife, the irresistible pathos of the situation that brings tears to every eye, is brought about by the simplest touches—a slight gesture in the voice, a single gesture of reproachful appeal to his wife, a half-suppressed sob of grief, as the poor vagabond says farewell to his little girl and hurries forth into the stormy night.

This is, so far, the mildest winter for ten years.

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